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LETTER DATED 16 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of my letter on the situation in the Prevlaka peninsula that I addressed to the Secretary-General on 13 October 1998.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-30887 (E) 161098

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Annex

Letter dated 13 October 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Considering your obligation from paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1183 (1998) to report to the Security Council on the situation in the Prevlaka peninsula and, in particular, on the progress achieved in the peaceful resolution of the disputed issue, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

In article 2 of the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia, signed in Belgrade on 23 August 1996, the two sides committed themselves to carrying out a delimitation and arranging their borders by agreement. In article 4 of the same Agreement, the two sides agreed to resolve the disputed issue of Prevlaka by negotiations. At the meeting of Zivadin Jovanovic, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Mate Granic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, on 18 August 1998, it was agreed that the two sides should proceed to the realization of the said commitments.

The delegations of the Governments of the two sides, entrusted with the task of implementing the commitments they had made in the said Agreement relating to the delimitation and the resolution of the territorial dispute over Prevlaka, have held two rounds of negotiations. The first meeting was held in Zagreb on 15 September 1998 and the second in Belgrade on 9 October 1998. The third meeting is scheduled to take place in Zagreb. It was also agreed that the two sides should prepare and exchange their starting positions for the realization of the obligations relating to the common State border and the resolution of the disputed issue of Prevlaka. The two sides agreed on the rules of negotiation and the method of presenting their starting positions.

The beginning of negotiations represents an important step forward in the resolution of this exceptionally complex issue in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, good-neighbourliness and respect for mutual interests, and renders a positive contribution to the development of relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia. With its constructive approach, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has fully complied with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1183 (1998) of 15 July 1998.

Considering your obligation to report to the Security Council on the situation in the Prevlaka peninsula, I take the opportunity to inform you of an incident that took place on 10 September 1998 at 6.05 p.m., before the first round of negotiations. A patrol boat of the police of the Republic of Croatia intercepted a Yugoslav fishing boat in the waters of Boka Kotorska Bay at the rim of the blue zone. On that occasion, the Croatian police made an attempt to arrest Yugoslav fishermen, using firearms. By this act the Republic of Croatia violated the territorial sovereignty and integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as the demilitarization regime of the blue zone. Bearing

that in mind, as well as the incidents of which my Government informed you in the past, I would appreciate it if you would kindly advise the Security Council of these events. I consider it exceptionally important that both sides restrain themselves from acts that can lead to the deterioration of the existing dispute. Also, it would be very useful if, in your report, you drew the attention of the two sides to their obligations and if the Security Council reconfirmed it on an appropriate occasion.

I assure you that my Government will continue the negotiations in a constructive way in order to achieve a peaceful solution of the disputed issue of Prevlaka by negotiation.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter included as an annex to your report to the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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